



MEDIA RELEASE

STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OCTOBER 11, 2004

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GOVERNOR PROCLAIMS OCTOBER FRAUD AND FINANCIAL ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH

EVENTS HELP SENIORS AND DISABLED ADULTS FIGHT FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION

NASHVILLE, Tenn. -- Governor Phil Bredesen has proclaimed October Fraud & Financial Abuse Awareness Month for the State of Tennessee. The Department of Human Services' Adult Protective Services (APS), along with the Adult Abuse Coalition (AAC) of South Central Tennessee and the East Tennessee Elder Abuse Coalition are sponsoring campaigns to educate and inform Tennesseans about fraud and financial abuse of seniors and disabled adults.

In recognition of Fraud and Financial Abuse Awareness Month, several seminars on this devastating topic are planned at senior centers across the state. (see second page)

Black and silver awareness ribbons will be distributed during the month of October. The black ribbon represents devastation and loss of monies by victims, and the silver ribbon symbolizes the partnerships within this community to fight against fraud and financial abuse. In addition, the Coalitions are developing safety cards and other publications with important contact information and available resources that help in the fight against fraud and financial abuse.

Other activities to help raise awareness of this crime include the development of an email listserv for rapid communication on frauds and scams, a survey of seniors for their experiences/opinions regarding fraud and abuse and the annual Consumer Empowerment Event Program, which features local experts focusing on current frauds and scams, internet safety, and identity theft.

In 2003, Tennessee had 2,800 reported victims of identity theft and 4,500 fraud complaints resulting in a loss of nearly \$5 million dollars to fraud. APS investigated more than 6,500 complaints in 2003, and 14 percent of those involved financial exploitation.

For more information on Adult Protective Services, visit:

<http://www.state.tn.us/humanserv/adpro.htm>

CITIZENS PLAZA, 15TH FLOOR
400 DEADERICK STREET
NASHVILLE, TN 37248
615.313.4700

**Training/Educational Schedule for the Senior Citizen Centers
For October Fraud & Financial Awareness Month**

<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>DATE & TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
Knox	10/12/04 8:00AM	John T. O'Connor Senior Center 611 Winona Street Knoxville, TN 37917
Bedford	10/28/04 10:00AM	111 J.G. Helton Drive Shelbyville, TN 37160
Coffee Tullahoma	10/22/04 10:00AM	410 N Collins St. Tullahoma, TN 37388
Coffee Manchester	10/14/04 10 to 11 AM	603 Woodbury Hwy Manchester, TN 37355
Franklin	10/20/04 Noon	74 Clover Drive Winchester, TN 37398
Giles	10/18/04 1:30 PM	100 Senior Citizens Way Pulaski, TN 38478
Hickman	10/27/04 10:00 AM	107 Armory Street Centerville, TN 37033
Lawrence	10/28/04 10:30 AM	220 Bicentennial Blvd. Lawrenceburg, TN 38464
Lewis	10/14/04 10:00 AM	347 East Main St. Hohenwald, TN 38462
Lincoln	10/20/04 11:00 AM	908 Washington St. Fayetteville, TN 37334
Marshall	10/25/04 11:30 AM	230 College St. Lewisburg, TN 37091
Maury	10/27/04 10:00 AM	1020 Maury Co. Park Columbia, TN 38401
Moore	10/26/04 11:00 AM	85 High Street Lynchburg, TN 37352
Perry	10/20/04 10:00 AM-Lobelville 11:30 AM-Linden	Main Street Lobelville, TN 37097 112 Mill Street Linden, TN 37096
Wayne	10/22/04 10:30 AM	202 Fairlane Drive Waynesboro, TN 38485